

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 27-29, 34-38, 43-45, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80-82, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-98, 104, 105, 108-110, 113-115, 117, 118, 129, 136-140 are pending in the application, with claims 27, 34-36, 43, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-96, 104, 105, 108, 113-115, 117, 118, 129 and 136 being the independent claims.

Claims 1-22 were previously cancelled. Claim 23-26, 30-33, 39-42, 46, 47, 51, 53, 56, 58, 59, 61, 68-71, 75, 78, 79, 83-86, 89, 92, 93, 99-103, 106, 107, 111, 112, 116, 119-128 and 130-135 are presently sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 27, 34-36, 43, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-96, 104, 105, 108, 113-115, 117, 118 and 129 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 136-140 are allowable over the art of record.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 23, 26, 33, 68, 93, 107 and 123 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of various U.S. Patents (namely, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,987,593, 5,659,782 and 5,987,593). By the foregoing amendment, claims 23, 26, 33, 68, 93, 107 and 123 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 23, 26, 33, 68, 93, 107 and 123 for obviousness-type double patenting be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 23-26, 30-33, 39-42, 46, 47, 53, 58, 61, 68-71, 78, 79, 83-86, 92, 93, 99-102, 106, 107, 111, 112, 119-128 and 130-135 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,487,156 to Popsecu *et al.* ("Popescu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,760,519 to Papworth ("Papworth").¹ By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have canceled each of these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 23-26, 30-33,

¹ At paragraph 13 (page 7) of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 52, 57, 60, 67, 76, 77, 90, 91, 104, 105, 117 and 118 were rejected on the same grounds. However, at paragraph 34 (page 13) of the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that these claims were only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Per a voice mail from the Examiner received by the undersigned on November 19, 2004, the Examiner confirmed that these claims are objected to, not rejected, as per paragraph 34 of the Office Action.

39-42, 46, 47, 53, 58, 61, 68-71, 78, 79, 83-86, 92, 93, 99-102, 106, 107, 111, 112, 119-128 and 130-135 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 51, 56, 59, 75, 89, 103 and 116 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popsecu in view of Papworth as applied to claims 23, 26, 33, 42, 68, 79, 93 and 107 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,794,517 to Jones *et al.* ("Jones").² By the foregoing amendment, each of these claims has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 51, 56, 59, 75, 89, 103 and 116 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It should be noted that Applicants have canceled the foregoing claims merely to expedite allowance of the present case, and, as such, the cancellation of these claims does not indicate agreement with or concession to the Examiner's prior art rejections. Applicants hereby expressly reserve the right to pursue one or more of the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 27-29, 34-38, 43-45, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80-82, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-98, 104, 105, 108-110, 113-115, 117,

² At paragraph 29 (page 11) of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 66 was rejected on the same grounds. However, at paragraph 35 (page 14) of the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that claim 66 was only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have assumed for the purposes of this Amendment and Reply that claim 66 is objected to, not rejected, as per paragraph 35 of the Office Action.

118 and 129 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.³ The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 27, 34-36, 43, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-96, 104, 105, 108, 113-115, 117, 118 and 129. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objections to claims 27-29, 34-38, 43-45, 48-50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 62-67, 72-74, 76, 77, 80-82, 87, 88, 90, 91, 94-98, 104, 105, 108-110, 113-115, 117, 118 and 129 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

³ The Examiner has not indicated the status of pending claims 63 and 64. However, since these claims include features that the Examiner found were not present in the art of record (see paragraph 35, page 14, of the Office Action), Applicants have assumed for the purposes of this Amendment and Reply that claims 63 and 64 are objected to.

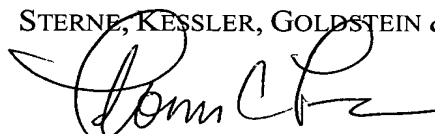
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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